

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information recording method for recording information in an optical recording medium having at least first and second information recording layers, the method comprising:

projecting a pulse-like laser beam whose power is modulated between a plurality of levels, including at least a recording power, onto the optical recording medium via a light incidence plane;

forming ~~thereon~~on the optical recording medium a plurality of recording marks selected from a group ~~consisting of~~that includes several types of recording marks with different lengths;

setting ~~the~~ recording powers of a top pulse and/or a last pulse of the laser beam used when at least one recording mark is to be formed in the first information recording layer to be lower than ~~the~~a recording power of a multi-pulse thereof, thereby recording information in the first information recording layer, wherein the first information recording layer is located on a side of the light incidence plane with respect to the second information recording layer and the second information recording layer is irradiated with the laser beam via the first information recording layer; and

recording information in the second information recording layer with the recording powers of the top pulse and/or the last pulse of the laser beam set to be substantially ~~the~~ same as the recording power of the multi-pulse thereof.

2. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The information recording method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein a wavelength (λ) of the laser beam and a numerical aperture (NA) of an objective lens satisfy ~~the~~a condition that the wavelength divided by the numerical aperture (λ/NA) is equal to or less than 700 nm.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The information recording method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the laser beam has a wavelength (λ) of between 200 to 450 nm.

7. (Currently Amended) An information recording apparatus for recording information in an optical recording medium, ~~the information recording apparatus comprising:~~ having at least first and second information recording layers where information is recorded by projecting a pulse-like laser beam having power modulated between a plurality of levels including at least a recording power onto the optical recording medium via a light incidence plane and forming on the optical recording medium ~~thereon~~ a plurality of recording marks selected from a group ~~consisting of~~that includes several types of recording marks having different lengths, the information recording apparatus being constituted so as to set ~~the~~ recording powers of a top pulse and/or a last pulse of the laser beam used when information is to be recorded in the first information recording layer to be lower than ~~the~~a recording power of a multi-pulse thereof, wherein the first information recording layer is located on a side of the light incidence plane with respect to the second information recording layer and the second information recording layer is irradiated with the laser beam via the first information recording layer, wherein information is recorded in the second information recording layer with the recording powers of the top pulse and/or the last pulse of the laser beam set to be substantially ~~the~~ same as the recording power of the multi-pulse thereof.

8. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The information recording apparatus in accordance with Claim 7, wherein a wavelength (λ) of the laser beam and a numerical aperture (NA) of an objective lens satisfy ~~the~~a condition that the wavelength divided by the numerical aperture (λ/NA) is equal to or less than 700 nm.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The information recording apparatus in accordance with Claim 7, wherein the laser beam has a wavelength (λ) of between 200 to 450 nm.

12. (Currently Amended) An optical recording medium, comprising:
at least first and second information recording layers in which information can be recorded by projecting a pulse-like laser beam whose power is modulated between a plurality of levels, including at least a recording power, onto the optical recording medium via a light incidence plane and forming on the optical recording medium ~~thereon~~ a plurality of recording marks selected from a group ~~consisting of~~that includes several types of recording marks having different lengths, wherein ~~the recording powers are set with information required for setting the~~ recording powers of a top pulse and/or a last pulse of the laser beam used when information is to be recorded in the first information recording layer are set to be lower than ~~the~~a recording power of a multi-pulse thereof, wherein the first information recording layer is located on a side of the light incidence plane with respect to the second information recording layer and the second information recording layer is irradiated with the laser beam via the first information recording layer, wherein information is recorded in the second information recording layer with the recording powers of the top pulse and/or the last pulse of the laser beam set to be substantially ~~the~~ same as the recording power of the multi-pulse thereof.

13. - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 12, ~~which further comprises comprising~~ a light transmission layer ~~and the light transmission layer has~~having a thickness of between 30 to 200 μm .

16. – 20. (Canceled)